

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KIGALI 00277 01 OF 02 211911Z

70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 IO-10 COME-00 EB-07 AID-05 NEA-10 EA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 /092 W

----- 129768

R 211500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3493

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KIGALI 277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RW, UG

SUBJECT: AMIN VISITS RWANDA

BEGIN SUMMARY

1. DURING THREE DAY OFFICIAL VISIT RWANDA ENDING MAY 17, AMIN GREETED BY UNUSUALLY LARGE/CURIOUS CROWDS, TOURED RWANDAN-UGANDAN BORDER AREA, WAS FETED BY PRES. HABYARIMANA AT STATE DINNER AND ENTERTAINED BY VARIOUS FOLKLORIC DANCE GROUPS. VISIT CAPPED BY ISSUANCE LENGTHY COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING I.A. ROUTING RWANDAN IMPORTS/EXPORTS VIA WESTERN UGANDAN RAILHEAD AND ESTABLISHMENT CONSULATE (GOR'S FIRST) AT KASESE, SWAMP DRAINAGE ALONG BOTH SIDES BORDER IN MULINDI TEA GROWING AREA AND INTENSIFICATION EFFORTS COMBAT SMUGGLING, COMMUNIQUE ALSO OPPOSED GOVT. TO GOVT. DIALOGUE WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA MINORITY REGIMES, EXPRESSED COMPLETE SOLIDARITY ARAB CAUSE, RECOGNIZED PLO AS SOLE REP. PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND CONTAINED UNUSUALLY STRIDENT (FOR GOR) LANGUAGE ON INDOCHINA. PRIOR DEPARTURE, AMIN LECTURED DIPLOMATS ON NEED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00277 01 OF 02 211911Z

COMMENTED TO CHARGE THAT "PROGRESS OF US-UGANDA RELATIONS

IMPROVING" END SUMMARY.

2. RECEPTION: ALTHOUGH ARRANGED ON FEW DAYS NOTICE, OFFICIAL VISIT UGANDAN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN DADA, MAY 15-17, EVOKED SOME OF LARGEST CROWDS SEEN KIGALI IN RECENT MEMORY. WHILE GENERAL PRACTICE PROVIDES FOR HOLIDAY ON DATE VIP ARRIVAL AND LINING OF STREETS TO ENSURE ANIMATED RECEPTION, LARGE NUMBER CURIOUS ONLOOKERS, INCLUDING MANY EUROPEANS, EXCEEDED MARKS SET RECENT VISITS OTHER AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE. DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND GOR OFFICIALS MARSHALLED TO SERIES EVENTS INCLUDING RECEPTION, STATE DINNER, AND DANCING AND SIGNATURE COMMUNIQUE ALL EXECUTED CEREMONIOUSLY AND AVERAGING TWO HOURS EACH BEHIND SCHEDULE.

3. COMMERCIAL RELATIONS: MAJOR DEVELOPMENT CONCERNED UGANDAN TRANSIT RWANDAN MERCHANDISE DESTINED/ORIGINATING KENYAN SEAPORT. ON DAY PRECEDING VISIT AMIN ANNOUNCED NATIONALIZATION UGANDAN BRANCH AGENCY MARITIME INTERNATIONALE - BELGIAN FREIGHT FORWARDER/CLEARING AGENT -- AND NEWLY CREATED GOR-OWNED TRUCKING FIRM STIR (IT LATER APPARENT AMIN BELIEVED STIR TO BE BELGIAN FIRM AND IT NOW LIKELY NATIONALIZATION TO BE REVERSED). JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOTED "RWANDAN REQUEST" TRANSIT IMPORTS/EXPORTS VIA WESTERN UGANDAN RAILHEAD AT KASESE VICE KAMPALA AND UGANDAN AGREEMENT OPENING OF RWANDAN CONSULATE THERE (COMMENT: LOCAL SHIPPERS AND FREIGHT FORWARDERS DISMAYED AT ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH IF IMPLEMENTED WILL (1) RESULT SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER FREIGHT CHARGES; (2) OVERLOAD RAILHEAD WHICH PRESENTLY HANDLING EASTERN ZAIRE/INDIAN OCEAN TRAFFIC AND (3) CRIPPLE NEW GOR TRUCKING FIRM). GOVTS ALSO AGREED INTENSIFY EFFORTS ERADICATE SMUGGLING ALTHOUGH IT UNLIKELY GOR WILL SEEK REDUCE ANNUAL 11,000 TON CLANDESTINE UGANDAN ROBUSTA COFFEE TRADE WHICH MAJOR RWANDAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNER.

4. BILATERAL COOPERATION: COMMUNIQUE NOTES SPECIFIC AGREEMENT DRAIN SWAMPS IN TEA GROWING AREAS BOTH SIDES BORDER, EXTENSION RWANDAN TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC SERVICE INTO UGANDA, ESTABLISHMENT CURRENCY EXCHANGE FACILITIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KIGALI 00277 01 OF 02 211911Z

ALONG BORDER AND GOU OFFER TRAIN RWANDANS AT UGANDAN INSTITUTIONS. IT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT "GENERAL COOPERATION CONVENTION" SIGNED BY TWO GOVTS BUT NO DETAILS RELEASED.

5. SOUTHERN AFRICA. ACCORDING COMMUNIQUE AMIN AND HABYARIMANA "REAFFIRMED OPPOSITION TO DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES AND MINORITY, RACIST AND AGGRESSOR REGIMES OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA." ALSO

STATED THAT ONLY REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ENTITLED NEGOTIATE THESE REGIMES AND THEN ONLY AFTER SECURING OAU APPROVAL.

6. ARAB-ISRAELI: GOVTS. STATED PLO SOLE AUTHENTIC REP. PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND CONDEMNED ISRAELI PERSISTENCE IN RETAINING BY FORCE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND DELAYING ESTABLISHMENT DURABLE PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. AMIN TOUCHED SUBJECT FREQUENTLY DURING VISIT, TOASTING "FINAL DEFEAT ZIONISM" AT STATE DINNER AND LECTURING DIPLOMATS AT COMMUNIQUE SIGNING CEREMONY THAT BY OPPOSING ZIONISM, HE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS BEING ANTI-JEWISH (AS DONE BY IMPERIALIST MASS MEDIA) ADDING THAT HE AND YASSER ARAFAT PREPARED LIVE AND COOPERATE WITH ISRAELIS.

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00277 02 OF 02 212107Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KIGALI 277

7. INDO-CHINA: IN UNUSUALLY POLEMICAL LANGUAGE (FOR GOR) COMMUNIQUE STATES BOTH GOVTS APPROVE "HEROIC VICTORY CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE PEOPLES. THEY PROFOUNDLY DEPLORE LOSS OF LIFE BY INNOCENT PEOPLE DUE TO THE ABSURD AND SCANDALOUS INTERFERENCE OF THE IMPERIALISTS. THEY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW LEADERS VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WILL DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO PEACE AND NATIONAL

UNITY AND RECONSTRUCTION THEIR REPECTIVE COUNTRIES."
IN SUBSEQUENT CALL ON FONOFF DIR. GEN., CHARGE INQUIRED
WHETHER STRIDENT LANGUAGE REPRESENTED CHANGE GOR VIEW
UNDERLYING INDOCHINA SITUATION. DIR. GEN. STATED NO
CHANGE INTENDED AND THAT NO MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD
BE READ INTO COMMUNIQUE WORDING. HE ADDED THAT TEXT
IS FUNCTION OF VISITOR AND THAT IF SEKOU TOURE EVER
VISITED RWANDA, ANY COMMUNIQUE WOULD PALE THAT OF AMIN
VISIT.

8. US-UGANDA RELATIONS: ON TWO OCCASIONS WHILE
TROOPING LINE OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AMIN TOLD CHARGE
THAT "PROGRESS US-UGANDAN RELATIONS IMPROVING." AT
AIRPORT FAREWELL HE CONSENTED TO THARGE THAT HE
PLEASED HIS EXECUTIVE JET PILOTS BEING TRAINED BY AMERICANS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00277 02 OF 02 212107Z

AS ARE THOSE FOR HIS BELL HELICOPTER. AS PLANES PRE-
PARING FOR DEPARTURE, AMIN SENT AMCIT PILOT TOM
FRIEDRICH (FLIGHT OPNS MGR, PAGE GULFSTREAM IND., SAN
ANTONIO, TEXAS) TO MEET CHARGE (TO PUZZLEMENT OTHER
DIPLOMATS). FRIEDERICH STATED HE TRAINING FOUR UGANDANS
AS PILOTS FOR GULFSTREAM AIRCRAFT HIS FIRM HAD SOLD
GOU. HE SAID LIFE IN KAMPALA SPARTAN BUT PRESENTED
NO SECURITY PROBLEMS TO FEW AMCITS STILL THERE ADDING THAT
TRAVELS DURING PAST TWO YEARS IN RURAL UGANDA HAVE RESULTED NO
ADVERSE ENCOUNTERS UGANDAN SECURITY FORCES.

9. OAU SUMMIT: IN COMMENTS FOLLOWING SIGNATURE
COMMUNIQUE AMIN URGED DIPLOMATS TO REQUEST THEIR GOVTS.
SEND THREE AUTOS TO OAU SUMMIT ROAD RALLY JULY 25-28
AS ASSEMBLED CHIEFS OF STATE WOULD LIKELY PURCHASE
WINNING CAR IN GREAT NUMBERS FOR LOCAL USE. IN SPITE
WRY SMILES AMONG ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCE, AMIN DWELT
AT LENGTH ON SUBJECT WHICH WAS THEN GIVEN BRIEF AND
CURSORY TRANSLATION FOR BENEFIT GOR.

10. AID TO RWANDA: IN PARTING SHOT TO DIPLOMATS AMIN
SAID OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD TAKE HIS WORD THAT HABYARIMANA'S
GOAL WAS RWANDAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THAT HE HAD URGED
RWANDAN PRESIDENT APPROACH ALL DONORS "CHINESE, USSR
OR AMERICANS" FOR ASSISTANCE AND THAT THEREFORE DIPLOMATS
SHOULD EXPECT HEAR FROM HIM SHORTLY. (AFTER PER-
FORMANCE THERE NOT A DRY EYE IN HOUSE). HIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, EXPORTS, IMPORTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, COMMUNIQUEs, CONSULATE OPENING, RAIL SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KIGALI00277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750178-0983
From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750532/aaaabcpj.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMIN VISITS RWANDA BEGIN SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, RW, UG, US, (HABYARIMANA, JUVENAL), (AMIN DADA, IDI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006